

**Subject:** [Fwd: Alaska Highway APLIC - 2006-08 STIP]  
**From:** Jeff Ottesen <jeff\_ottesen@dot.state.ak.us>  
**Date:** Mon, 02 Jan 2006 12:07:13 -0900  
**To:** Susan Woodrow <susan\_woodrow@dot.state.ak.us>

206

----- Original Message -----  
Subject: Alaska Highway APLIC - 2006-08 STIP  
Date: Thu, 22 Dec 2005 16:42:03 -0900  
From: Dick Monkman <dick@sonoskyjuneau.com>  
To: jeff\_ottesen@dot.state.ak.us

Reference: DRAFT 2006-2008 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program,  
/ /Alaska Highway APLIC and Rest Area.

Jeff:

I'm on the board of the Alaska Natural History Association. As you may know, ANHA works closely with all federal and state public land agencies in Alaska. We strive to educate and inform Alaskans and visitors about public land issues and opportunities.

In reviewing the draft 2006-08 STIP it has come to ANHA's attention that the new Visitor Center planned for Tok is no longer listed. The project was listed in the 2004-2006 STIP as the /Alaska Highway APLIC and Rest Area/. The design development for this facility is near completion and funds are available for land acquisition. This project is ready to move into the construction phase and needs to be identified in the STIP to be eligible for funding.

Tok is an important gateway into Alaska. This project has been moving forward for five years. It is a critically needed new visitor facility. It is designed to serve as only as a Alaska Public Lands Information Center, a new Tetlin Refuge Visitor Center and rest and trip planning facility for travelers along the Alaska Highway.

As you may know, this project has already created additional community and tourism projects in Tok. We firmly believe that this project will have significant economic benefits for Tok and will increase the momentum of regional efforts to promote tourism in Eastern Interior. This project is an excellent model of federal/state/local cooperation, and what can be accomplished when public agencies work together to achieve their joint goals.

We respectfully request that the Department reinstate the Tok Interagency Public Lands and Rest Area Facility into the 2006-2008 STIP. Please let me know if you need any further information about this important and useful project.

Thanks,

Dick

Richard D. Monkman

957 Gold Belt Ave.

Juneau, Alaska 99801

907 586 5880 (w)